

**DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA  
MUNICIPAL  
REGULATIONS  
for  
PHARMACISTS**

**CHAPTER 65      PHARMACISTS**

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**6500      GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 6500.1      This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a license to practice pharmacy and to pharmacy interns.
- 6500.2      Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules), and 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures) of this title shall supplement this chapter.

**6501      TERM OF LICENSE**

- 6501.1      Subject to § 6501.2, a license issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight the last day of February of each odd-numbered year.
- 6501.2      If the Director changes the renewal system pursuant to § 4006.3 of Chapter 40 of this title, a license issued pursuant to this chapter expires at 12:00 midnight of the last day of the month of the birthdate of the holder of the license, or other date established by the Director.

**6502      EDUCATION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

- 6502.1      Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, an applicant shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board, in accordance with § 504(i) of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.04(i) (2001), of the following:
- (a) That the applicant has successfully completed an educational program in the practice of pharmacy and holds a Bachelor of Science or Doctor of Pharmacy

degree from a school of pharmacy accredited by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) at the time the applicant graduates; and

- (b) That the applicant has successfully completed a pharmacy internship consisting of one of the following:
  - (1) One thousand (1,000) hours of pre-licensure professional practice in a program administered by a college of pharmacy accredited by ACPE at the time the applicant does the internship; or
  - (2) One thousand five hundred (1,500) hours of independent pre-licensure professional practice under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist who uses the standards for pre-licensure professional practice described in § 6502.2; or
  - (3) Two (2) rotations totaling six hundred and sixty (660) hours of pre-licensure professional practice administered by a college of pharmacy accredited by ACPE at the time the applicant does the internship and five hundred and ten (510) hours of independent pre-licensure professional practice under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist who uses the standards for pre-licensure professional described in § 6502.2.

6502.2 The Board shall give credit for independent pre-licensure professional practice required by §§ 6502.1(b)(2) and (3) if it meets the following requirements:

- (a) Seventy percent (70%) of the work was spent performing the following pharmacy tasks:
  - (1) Filling prescriptions;
  - (2) Compounding drugs;
  - (3) Evaluating prescriptions
  - (4) Handling controlled substances;
  - (5) Handling toxic drugs and substances;
  - (6) Substituting generic drugs for brand name drugs;
  - (7) Storing and packing drugs;
  - (8) Instructing patients;
  - (9) Maintaining prescription records; and
  - (10) Handling veterinarian products;

- (b) A student who is enrolled in a school of pharmacy may be given credit only for hours of work performed during school breaks or vacations;
- (c) Work performed in the following areas is subject to a maximum of five hundred (500) hours of credit:
  - (1) Work-study in industry or government;
  - (2) Research; and
  - (3) Community service projects;
- (d) Credit shall not be given for more than forty (40) hours of pre-licensure professional practice hours per week; and
- (e) Credit for pre-licensure professional practice performed in the District of Columbia shall not accrue until the Board has registered the intern in accordance with the procedures set forth in § 6512.

**6503****APPLICANTS EDUCATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

- 6503.1 The Board may grant a license to practice pharmacy to an applicant who completed an educational program in a foreign country, which program was not recognized by the ACPE, if the applicant meets the following:
  - (a) Meets all requirements of this chapter except for § 6502.1(a) and
  - (b) Demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board that the applicant's education and training are substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter and the Act by submitting the documentation required by this section.
- 6503.2 An applicant under this section shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board that the applicant holds a degree from a school of pharmacy with at least a four (4) year curriculum at the time of graduation.
- 6503.3 An applicant under this section shall possess a standard certificate from the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Commission (FPGEC).
- 6503.4 An applicant under this section shall receive a passing score on the national examination in accordance with § 6504.
- 6503.5 An applicant under this section shall submit with a completed application certified transcripts of the applicant's pharmacy educational record(s).

- 6503.6 If a document required by this chapter is in a language other than English, an applicant shall arrange for its translation into English by a translation service acceptable to the Board and shall submit to the Board a translation signed by the translator attesting to its accuracy.
- 6503.7 The Board may waive the transcript requirement of § 6503.5 on a showing of extraordinary hardship if the applicant is able to establish by substitute documentation that the applicant possesses the requisite education and degrees.
- 6503.8 The Board may interview an applicant under this section to determine whether the applicant's education or training meets the requirements of the Act and this chapter.

#### **6504 NATIONAL EXAMINATION**

- 6504.1 To qualify for a license by examination, an applicant shall receive a passing score on the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Licensure Examination (NABPLEX) and the Federal Drug Law Examination (FDLE).
- 6504.2 An applicant shall submit the applicant's examination results, certified by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.
- 6504.3 The passing score of the NABPLEX and FDLE are the passing scores established by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy on each test that forms a part of the examinations.

#### **6505 DISTRICT EXAMINATION**

- 6505.1 To qualify for a license under this chapter, all applicants without exception shall receive a passing score on a written examination developed by the Board on laws and rules pertaining to the practice of pharmacy (the District examination).
- 6502.2 The District examination shall include questions on the following laws:
- (a) The District of Columbia Pharmacist and Pharmacy Regulation Act, D.C. Law 3-98;
  - (b) Chapters 10, 11, 13, and 15, of Title 22 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations implementing the District of Columbia Uniform Controlled Substances Act of 1981, D.C. Law 4-29;
  - (c) The Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, D.C. Law 6-99; and
  - (d) Other laws or regulations specified by the Board.

6503.3 The Board shall supply each applicant scheduled to take the District examination with copies or citations of the laws and regulations to be included on the District law examination thirty (30) days prior to the examination.

**6506 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

6506.1 Except as provided in § 6506.2, this section shall apply to applicants for the renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a license for a term expiring February 28, 1991, and for subsequent terms.

6506.2 This section shall not apply to applicants for an initial license by examination or reciprocity, nor does it apply to applicants for the first renewal of a license granted by examination.

6506.3 A continuing education credit shall be valid only if it is part of a program approved by the Board in accordance with § 6507.

6506.4 An applicant for renewal of a license shall:

- (a) Have completed thirty (30) contact hours of credit in approved continuing education programs during the two (2) year period preceding the date the license expires;
- (b) Attest to completion of the required continuing education credits on the renewal application form; and
- (c) Be subject to a random audit.

6506.5 To qualify for a license, a person in inactive status within the meaning of § 511 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11 (2001) for five (5) years or less who submits an application to reactivate a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 6506.8 of having completed fifteen (15) contact hours of approved continuing education credit in the year immediately preceding the date of the application.

6506.6 To qualify for a license, a person in inactive status within the meaning of § 511 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11 (2001) for more than five (5) years who submits an application to reactivate a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 6506.8 of having completed approved continuing education credit in the year immediately preceding the date of the application as follows:

- (a) Thirty (30) contact hours of approved continuing education credit; and
- (b) One hundred sixty (160) hours within a sixty (60) day period of professional practice under the supervision of a pharmacist performing tasks listed in § 6502.2 (a).

- 6506.7 To qualify for a license, an applicant for reinstatement of a license shall submit proof pursuant to § 6506.8 of having completed approved continuing education credit in the year immediately preceding the date of the application as follows:
- (a) Thirty (30) contact hours of approved continuing education credit; and
  - (b) One hundred sixty (160) hours within a sixty (60) day period of professional practice under the supervision of a pharmacist performing tasks listed in § 6502.2(a).
- 6506.8 Except as provided in § 6506.10, an applicant under this section shall prove completion of required continuing education credits by submitting with the application the following information with respect to each program:
- (a) The name and address of the sponsor of the program;
  - (b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;
  - (c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;
  - (d) The hours of credit claimed; and
  - (e) Verification by the sponsor of completion, by signature or stamp.
- 6506.9 Beginning with the 2005 renewal period, the Board shall conduct a random audit of continuing education credits at the completion of each renewal period.
- 6506.10 Applicants for renewal of a license shall only be required to prove completion of the required continuing education credits by submitting proof pursuant to § 6506.8 if requested to do so as part of the random audit, or if otherwise requested to do so by the Board.
- 6506.11 An applicant for renewal of a license who fails to renew the license by the date the license expires may renew the license for up to sixty (60) days after the date of expiration by completing the application, submitting the required supporting documents, and paying the required late fee. Upon renewal, the applicant shall be deemed to have possessed a valid license during the period between the expiration of the license and the renewal thereof.
- 6506.12 If an applicant for renewal of a license fails to renew the license and pay the late fee within the sixty (60) days after the expiration of the applicant's license, the license shall be considered to have lapsed on the date of expiration. The applicant shall thereafter be required to apply for reinstatement of an expired license and meet all requirements and fees for reinstatement.

6506.13 The Board may, in its discretion, grant an extension of the sixty (60) day period, up to a maximum of one (1) year, to renew after expiration if the applicant's failure to renew was for good cause. As used in this section, "good cause" includes the following:

- (a) Serious and protracted illness of the applicant; and
- (b) The death or serious and protracted illness of a member of the applicant's immediate family.

6506.14 An extension granted under this section shall not exempt the pharmacist from complying with the continuing education requirements for any other renewal period.

## **6507 APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

6507.1 The Board may, in its discretion, approve continuing education programs that contribute to the growth of an applicant in professional competence in the practice of pharmacy and which meet the other requirements of this section.

6507.2 The Board may approve continuing education programs that meet the requirements of § 6507.3 and provide instruction in one of the following subjects:

- (a) Properties and actions of drugs and drug dosage forms;
- (b) Etiology, characteristics, and therapeutics of the disease state;
- (c) Pharmaceutical practice;
- (d) Legal, psychological, and socio-economic aspects of health care delivery; or
- (e) Principles, techniques, and theories of pharmacy management and administration.

6507.3 To qualify for approval by the Board, a continuing education program shall be a lecture, conference, seminar, course of instruction, or workshop and be prepared, offered, or administered by one of the following:

- (a) Providers approved by the ACPE;
- (b) The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (sponsored or co-sponsored) and designated as an American Medical Association Physician's Recognition Award Category 1 program by the sponsoring organization;
- (c) A governmental unit;



(d) A health care facility; or

(e) An institution of higher learning recognized by an accrediting body approved by the Secretary of the United States Department of Education.

6507.4 The Board may issue a list of approved continuing education programs.

6507.5 An applicant shall have the burden of verifying whether a program is approved by the Board pursuant to this section prior to attending the program.

6507.6 The Board may approve the following continuing education activities by an applicant:

(a) Serving as an instructor or speaker at a lecture, conference, seminar, workshop, course of instruction, or in-service training; and

(b) Publication of an article or book review in a professional journal or bulletin or publication of a book or chapter in a book.

## **6508 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS**

6508.1 The Board may grant continuing education credit for whole hours only, with a minimum of fifty (50) minutes constituting one (1) credit hour.

6508.2 For approved undergraduate or graduate courses, each semester hour of credit constitutes fifteen (15) hours of continuing education credit, and each quarter hour constitutes ten (10) hours of continuing education credit.

6508.3 The Board may grant a maximum of ten (10) continuing education credits per year to an applicant who attends in-service education programs.

6508.4 The Board may grant credit for both preparation and presentation time to an applicant who serves as an instructor or speaker at an acceptable program, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The maximum amount of credit which may be granted for preparation time is twice the amount of the associated presentation time; and

(b) The maximum amount of credit which may be granted pursuant to this subsection is fifty percent (50%) of an applicant's continuing education requirement; and

(c) The presentation must have been completed during the period for which credit is claimed.

6508.5 The Board may grant an applicant who is an author or editor of a published book in the field of pharmacy thirty (30) continuing education credits, if the book has been published or accepted for publication during the period for which credit is claimed, and the applicant submits proof of this fact with the application.

6508.6 The Board may grant an applicant who is an author of a published original paper in the field of Pharmacy six (6) continuing education credits, subject to the same restrictions set forth for books in § 6508.5.

6508.7 The Board may grant an applicant who is the sole author of a published book review, review paper, or abstract, in the field of Pharmacy, two (2) continuing education credits, subject to the same restrictions set forth for books in § 6508.5.

## **6509 LICENSE BY RECIPROCITY**

6509.1 An applicant for a license by reciprocity shall furnish proof that the applicant's credentials have been certified by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), by arranging for NABP to review the applicant's application materials and transmit them to the Board along with a letter of certification.

6509.2 An applicant licensed in another jurisdiction shall furnish proof satisfactory to the Board that:

- (a) The applicant is licensed or registered to practice pharmacy in the jurisdiction where the pharmacy license was earned by submitting a copy of the license certified by the licensing authority in the jurisdiction where the license was issued; and
- (b) If the applicant was licensed after the adoption of NAPLEX by the state in which the applicant earned the license and that license is current and in good standing, the applicant has taken and passed the NAPLEX and FDLE; or
- (c) If the applicant was licensed prior to the adoption of the NAPLEX by the state in which applicant earned the license and that license is current and in good standing:
  - (1) The examination requirements in the jurisdiction where the license was earned were substantially equivalent at the time of licensure to the requirements of the Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, D.C. Law 6-99, D.C. Official Code § 3-1201 *et seq.* (2001);
  - (2) Applicant meets the requirements of § 6509.2(a); and
  - (3) Applicant has taken and passed the FDLE.

6509.3 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in § 4014 of Chapter 40 of this title, the Board shall not grant a provisional license.

6509.4 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in § 4102.3 of Chapter 41 of this title, an applicant for licensure by reciprocity who has not taken and passed the District examination, the FDLE, and the NAPLEX, when it is required for licensure as provided in § 6509.2, shall not be entitled to a hearing where the basis for the denial of the license is the applicant's failure to pass the examinations.

## **6510 PRE-LICENSURE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE**

6510.1 This section shall apply only to pharmacy interns who are performing independent, pre-licensure professional practice in satisfaction of the internship required by §§ 6502.1(b)(2) and (3) under the direct supervision of a pharmacist in the District.

6510.2 A pharmacy intern shall perform pharmacy tasks only under the supervision of a pharmacist who has been approved by the Board to serve as a preceptor.

6510.3 A pharmacy intern shall not change preceptors without approval by the Board.

6510.4 A pharmacy intern shall not compound or dispense any drug by prescription except under the direct supervision of a preceptor who is physically present and guiding the action.

6510.5 A pharmacy intern shall not accept an oral prescription for a Schedule II controlled substance.

6510.6 A pharmacy intern shall be identified by badge as an intern while performing pharmacy tasks.

## **6511 DUTIES OF PRECEPTOR**

6511.1 This section shall apply only to preceptors who are supervising pharmacy interns who are performing independent, pre-licensure professional practice in satisfaction of the internship required by § 6502.1(b)(2) and (3) under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist in the District.

6511.2 Only a pharmacist whose license is in full force and effect may serve as a preceptor.

6511.3 Prior to supervising a pharmacy intern, a preceptor shall take the "Oath of Preceptor," administered by a notary public as follows:

“I submit that I shall answer all questions concerning the training of a pharmacy intern under my supervision truthfully to the best of my knowledge and belief and that the training I provide will be predominately related to the practice of pharmacy as required by law.”

6511.4 A preceptor shall ensure that at least seventy percent (70%) of a pharmacy intern’s training consists of learning to perform the following tasks:

- (a) Filling prescriptions;
- (b) Compounding drugs;
- (c) Evaluating prescriptions;
- (d) Handling controlled substances;
- (e) Handling toxic drugs and substances;
- (f) Substituting generic drugs for brand name drugs;
- (g) Storing and packaging drugs;
- (h) Instructing patients;
- (i) Maintaining prescription records; and
- (j) Handling veterinary products.

6511.5 A preceptor shall be responsible for the tasks performed by a pharmacy intern. A preceptor may be disciplined for any violation of the Act or this chapter in the performance of pharmacy tasks by the intern and under the preceptor’s supervision.

6511.6 A preceptor shall be present on the premises of the pharmacy whenever a pharmacy intern performs pharmacy tasks.

6511.7 A preceptor shall not supervise more than one pharmacy intern at one time.

## **6512 REGISTRATION OF PHARMACY INTERNS**

6512.1 This section shall apply to pharmacy interns who are performing independent, pre-licensure professional practice in satisfaction of the internship required by § 6502.1(b)(2) and (3) under the supervision of a pharmacist in the District.

6512.2 A pharmacy intern shall be registered by the Board before starting an internship.

- 6512.3 A pharmacy intern shall apply to the Board for registration as an intern in accordance with § 4001.1 of chapter 40. The application shall include the following information and be accompanied by the following supporting documents:
- (a) The name of the pharmacy intern;
  - (b) The academic experience of the pharmacy intern and supporting transcripts;
  - (c) The name of the preceptor;
  - (d) The location where the internship will be performed;
  - (e) A description of the intern's duties;
  - (f) A description of the supervision that will be provided by the preceptor; and
  - (g) The Oath of Preceptor set forth in § 6511.3.
- 6512.4 The Board shall approve an application for registration that provides supervision in the performance of pharmacy tasks enumerated in § 6511.4 and is consistent with the public health, safety, and welfare.
- 6512.5 A registration as a pharmacy intern shall expire one (1) year from the date of its issuance. It may be renewed for successive periods of one (1) year if the pharmacy intern demonstrates due diligence in working toward completing the clinical internship requirement of § 6502.1(b)(2) or (3).
- 6512.6 An intern shall not change preceptors without re-registering with the Board.
- 6513-6517 [RESERVED]**
- 6518 BOARD OF PHARMACY**
- 6518.1 The Board shall elect from its members a secretary and such other officers as it deems appropriate and necessary to conduct its business.
- 6518.2 The secretary, in the chairperson's absence, shall have all of the powers and may perform all of the duties of the chairperson.
- 6518.3 The Board shall meet at least twice each calendar year and shall hold additional meetings as deemed necessary by the Board upon proper notice in the District of Columbia Register.

6518.4 The chairperson or a majority of the Board may call special meetings upon reasonable notice to all Board members.

## **6599 DEFINITIONS**

6599.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings ascribed:

**Adulterated drug or device** – an adulterated drug or device as defined in § 501 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 351.

**Applicant** – a person applying for a license to practice pharmacy under this chapter.

**Board** – the Board of Pharmacy, established by § 208 of the Act, D.C. Official Code § 3-1202.08 (2001).

**Coded prescription** – a prescription employing words and symbols chosen by the prescriber and a cooperating pharmacist for secrecy from other pharmacists.

**Contact hour** – a period of at least fifty (50) minutes of instruction in a continuing education program. One (1) contact hour equals one-tenth (0.1) of a continuing education credit.

**Pharmacist** – a person licensed to practice pharmacy under the Act.

**Pharmacy intern** – a person registered in the District to practice pharmacy under the direct supervision of a pharmacist and who is fulfilling internship (sometimes called externship) requirements in accordance with the chapter.

**Preceptor** – a pharmacist licensed in the District who has taken the Oath of Preceptor and who supervises the pre-licensure professional practice of a pharmacy intern.

**Prescriber** – a health professional licensed in the United States and authorized by law to prescribe the particular drug or device.

**Prescription Drug** – one of the following drugs:

(a) A drug which under federal law is required, prior to being dispensed or delivered, to be labeled in substance with either of the following statements:

(1) “Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription”; or

(2) “Caution: Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.”;

- (b) A drug which is required by any applicable federal or District law or regulation to be dispensed on prescription only; or
- (c) A drug that is restricted to use by health professional and allied practitioners for research.

**Registration** – a document issued by the Board authorizing a pharmacy intern to do pre-licensure professional practice in the District with a designated preceptor.

6599.2 The definitions in § 4099 of chapter 40 of this title are incorporated by reference and made applicable to this chapter.